

Message Text

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64

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 OES-03 EB-07 DLOS-04

ACDA-05 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 853

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 3004

USDEL 017

FOR USOAS AND L

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OAS

SUBJECT: SAN JOSE CONFERENCE - RIO TREATY AREA OF COVERAGE

REF: STATE 170818

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF ARTICLE 4 COVERAGE AGAIN WITH HIGHAM, THE CANADIAN OBSERVER. HE SEEMS UNCONCERNED. HE NOW PLANS TO LIMIT HIS PARTICIPATING TO A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ZONE FINALLY AGREED UPON DOES NOT HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH CANADIAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS.

2. ARGENTINA HAS INFORMED US OF ITS INTENTION OF SEEKING THE INSERTION OF THE FOLLOWING TEXT BETWEEN "24 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE" AND "THENCE DUE SOUTH TO THE SOUTH POLE:" "THENCE DUE SOUTH TO A POINT 53 DEGREES SOUTH LATITUDE; THENCE EAST TO A POINT 20 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE; THENCE SOUTH TO A POINT 60 DEGREES SOUTH LATITUDE;

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THENCE WEST TO A POINT 24 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE."

THE EFFECT OF THIS WOULD BE TO ADD A SMALL RECTANGULAR APPENDAGE TO THE HIGH SEAS COVERAGE, INCLUDING MOST BUT NOT ALL OF THE AREA WITHIN 200 MILES OF THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL WE HAVE INFORMED THE ARGENTINES THAT THEIR PROPOSAL IS UNACCEPTABLE TO US.

3. THE SOUTH ATLANTIC LINE NOW RUNS FROM 5 DEGREES NORTH, 24 DEGREES WEST DUE SOUTH TO THE POLE. COULD THE DEPARTMENT ACCEPT MOVEMENT OF THIS ENTIRE LINE SEVERAL DEGREES TO THE EAST, PERHAPS TO 20 DEGREES WEST? ALTERNATIVELY, COULD WE ACCEPT MOVEMENT OF THE LINE EASTWARD AS FAR SOUTH AS 60 DEGREES SOUTH, AT WHICH POINT IT WOULD JOG DUE WEST TO THE PRESENT LINE, WHICH WOULD PROCEED TO THE SOUTH POLE?

4. THE ARGENTINES WILL PROBABLY HAVE THE VOTES TO IMPOSE WHATEVER THEY WANT. BUT THEIR DELEGATION IS MAKING AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO COOPERATE WITH US.
TODMAN

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